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THE AMERICAN MAIL RECORD

VOL X

No 1

CONTENTS

Editorial Notes.—A Welcome Visitor.—Two Important Features.—Serious Crisis.—A New Departure in Evangelization.—Mothers' Meeting in Salle Rivoli-New York.—Good News from Saintes.—Harvest Time Draws Near. The Young Girls' Class.—The Work at Cherbourg.—The Leaven Working.—A Sunday School Celebration.—The Garden Party.—In the Interior.—Fifine. The Cruise of the Mystery.

JANUARY, 1892

THE AMERICAN McALL RECORD

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE

AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION

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The readers of the RECORD will rejoice in the confirmation of their highest expectations with regard to the work of Rev. Dr. Loba, who went from our country at the beginning of the autumn, to be Dr. McAll's colleague in the conduct of the McAll Mission.

In a recent letter to a friend, Dr. McAll writes: "The more we see of Dr. Loba, the more we feel his excellence and value. He is not more distinguished by eminent gifts, intellectually and as a speaker, than by thoughtful prudence as a counsellor, and by intense amiability as a friend. Mrs. Loba also is most amiable and useful. They certainly will be loved and looked up to by all."

We make the announcement which will be hailed with joy by every friend of the McAll Mission, of the formation of a new Auxiliary in Northampton, Massachusetts! The Rev. Mr. Anderson spoke in Northampton on Friday evening, December 4th, in a union meeting, in which all denominations were represented. At the close of Mr. Anderson's address, the plans which he had previously made were heartily carried out, and an Auxiliary with President, Secretary and Treasurer, was formed. The Association welcomes the new Auxiliary, and congratulates Mr. Anderson upon this noble result of his efforts.

We also publish with sincere pleasure and thankfulness the formation of a new auxiliary in Kalamazoo, Michigan. It will be remembered that Kalamazoo was the home of Rev. Dr. Loba, who is now Dr. McAll's colleague in the great work in France. We understand that the inspiration which has led to such a good result has come through Dr. and Mrs. Loba, and we recognize the peculiar appropriateness of the tie which thus still binds together in spirit and work those who are separate in space. The McAll Association, and all the friends of the McAll Mission, give hearty welcome to the auxiliary in Kalamazoo.

All members of McAll Auxiliaries will rejoice in the happiness of two of the most faithful friends of the Mission, Professor and Mrs. J. C. Bracq, in the gift to them of a Sunday child. Little Florence Beard Bracq was born in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, October 18th, and her perfect health and sweet baby goodness give promise that she will be the joy of her parents' lives.

By a natural misapprehension, the name of Madame Jouy was substituted for that of Madame Jenny, in the report of the work at Salle Brooklyn in the October RECORD. Madame Jenny is the indefatigable Bible reader of Salle Brooklyn, at La Villette, Paris. Madame Jouy is the no less able and devoted Bible reader of Salle Boston.

We would remind our readers that one of the very best ways of arousing interest in the McAll Mission is by the circulation of Mrs. Houghton's two books, "Fifine" and "The Cruise of the Mystery." Both books are the outcome of a thorough knowledge of the work, and they very truthfully mirror those phases of it with which they deal. "Fifine" is so far a book for children, that it describes the work among

the children, though grown people will find it interesting. "The Cruise of the Mystery," giving an account of the boat work, is for older readers. This book is meeting a warm welcome; a large number of copies have already been sold, though the book has been published only a few weeks.

We would direct our readers' attention to the fact that "The Missionary Review of the World" for January (Funk & Wagnall's, New York) contains an article by Dr. McAll on the work of the mission-boat. The article abounds with incidents of the work, many of them deeply impressive and extremely significant as showing the character of the boat-work and its abundant results. No one is better fitted to give a graphic description of the work than Dr. McAll himself, and we rejoice that he has found time to write this article.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on Wednesday, December 9th, the following was passed:

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the American McAll Association hereby tender to Mrs. Louise Seymour Houghton the assurance of their most grateful appreciation of her service to the cause by her authorship of "The Cruise of the Mystery." We recognize the noble generosity of her most skillful work, and we all are sure that the truthfulness and attractiveness of the narrative will win for the Mission many new friends or supporters.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolution be sent to the RECORD for publication.

By order of the Board,

LAURA M. FETTEROLF,

Recording Secretary.

A WELCOME VISITOR FROM THE FIELD.

As many of our Auxiliaries and friends already know, the Rev. Samuel H. Anderson, of Paris, one of the most earnest and honored of the workers in the McAll Mission, is now in this country, speaking for the Mission under the auspices of the American McAll Association. Mr. Anderson came to us with the warmest commendation of the Board of Directors in Paris, and we are sure that he came also with a special blessing from above. Indeed, the events of his life appear to bear a providential stamp. Born in the Mauritius Islands, of a Scotch missionary father and a faithful French mother, thoroughly educated in both England and France, at first entering enthusiastically upon a scientific course and then finding himself almost irresistibly impelled into the Christian ministry, it seemed but fitting that he should finally choose the McAll Mission in France as the field for his life-work. For eight years he has been in the midst of that Mission's labors. There is not a phase of the Mission's wonderful success with which he is not familiar, nor a degree of its pressing need which he does not understand. Like the early Christian witnesses, he testifies of what his own eyes have seen and his own ears have heard.

Mr. Anderson arrived early in November and proceeded at once to Philadelphia, making his first American address in the Chambers Presbyterian Church, on the afternoon of Sunday, November 8th. After speaking repeatedly in Philadelphia, both in public and before the McAll Auxiliary, he visited Chester, Pa., and spoke three times in Baltimore on Sunday, November 15th. November 17th he addressed a large union meeting called by the New York Auxiliary, in the Reformed Church, Fifth Avenue and Twenty-ninth Street. Since that time, the plan of his campaign has kept him in New England. In Connecticut, South Norwalk, West Winsted, Bridgeport,

New Britain, Hartford (Sunday), Meriden, New Haven (Sunday), Windsor Locks, Middletown, have held important, thoroughly prepared, and usually largely attended meetings, which he has addressed. In Massachusetts, up to December 10th, he has spoken in Springfield, Westfield, Amherst, Easthampton, Northampton, South Hadley (Mt. Holyoke College), Worcester (Sunday), Haverhill and Salem, with further appointments already awaiting him in Andover, Portland, Boston, Providence and Brooklyn. Beginning with the Sunday in Baltimore, Mr. Anderson has spoken to nearly twenty of the auxiliaries. And from all sides have come tidings of the deep interest awakened. From Philadelphia the word is, "Mr. Anderson's presence and words have been to us a benediction. He has inspired us with new love for that Mission whose wonderful work we now the more thoroughly understand." The pastor of one of the leading Presbyterian churches in Baltimore writes: "I heard Mr. Anderson in a church address and in the ministers' meeting. On both occasions he made a fine impression, and gave the best setting forth of the McAll work in France that I have heard."

The pastor of a strong Baptist church in Hartford declares, "The work of Mr. Anderson in Hartford has surpassed our highest expectations. He has the bearing of a Christian gentleman, and the grace of a devoted servant of Christ. All whom I have met bear willing testimony to the effect of his appeals. I wish he might speak in every Baptist church in our land."

After New England, Mr. Anderson's course will embrace part of New Jersey, New York State, Canada and the Middle States. It is hoped that still later he may visit the West. Certainly we have abundant occasion for gratitude to God in view of the presence and labors of one so wise, so devoted, so tireless. Thousands of hearts are wishing the continued reward of most abundant success.

TWO IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE WORK.

BY REV. J. F. LOBA.

It is quite possible for first impressions to be mistaken impressions ; still they must yet have this advantage, that they seize and present the most striking, salient and prominent features of what is seen. Possibly, also, a line from a fresh pen so recently come over to this foreign land may add the interest of a view from an unprejudiced point. It is difficult for any one to get a very intelligent view or form a very generally correct opinion of the McAll work from the merely cursory glance or visit of a tourist who stops a week in Paris and looks into one or two of the most accessible "Salles." After more than two months of almost constant visitation of the different Salles in the city, and during that time of visiting nineteen stations and delivering in these over fifty addresses, we begin to form somewhat clear conceptions of what the work is and how varied are the forces in taken on.

But, to be brief, I will give you the three features which have most profoundly impressed me.

1. The very first thing which impressed me was the children's meetings and schools.

At our coming nearly seven hundred of these from the different Salles were assembled in the Salle Rivoli. Many of them must have come from great distances. They were of different grades and of all ages, though the younger children predominated. But no one could have looked on those earnest upturned little faces without being moved. There was throughout the long services and several rather long addresses the most perfect order and the most careful attention. Nowhere have I ever heard better singing, and that, too, though many of these children had never before sung together. The order, the interest, the singing all do the highest credit to Mr. and Mrs. Greig, who are the indefatigable shepherds of these

flocks. Since then it has been my good fortune to have charge of one of Mr. Greig's schools, that in the Faubourg St. Antoine, which meets every Wednesday. The place is not attractive; on the contrary, it is low, malodorous and dark. The children are not well dressed nor clean. But brighter, quicker, keener children I have never met. It is, moreover, quite marvelous to see how much of the Bible and Gospel narrative they already know perfectly.

Questions on the life of our Lord are answered almost as quickly as they can be formulated, and correctly. We venture to affirm that if the McAll Mission had done no more than bring these poor waifs under Christian instruction it could on that ground alone be pronounced an abundant success.

But stand with the writer at the close of one of these sessions and see the earnest and affectionate little faces crowd about you for one final word; feel their dirty little hands slip into yours; or, again and again their possessors cheerily say "bon soir," and I am sure your heart would warm toward these children gathered out of the vast blackness of heathenism and poverty of these faubourgs of Paris. This is surely the most blessed and hopeful feature of this wide reaching work.

But if you go one step in the ascending scale and see these same children grown up to young manhood and womanhood you can clearly see the fruit of this faithful sowing and culture. If you could see the beautiful groups of young people gathered in several of the Salles; if you could see the young ladies, neatly dressed, clean, sweet, and modest: could hear the chorus of twenty or thirty clear and strong voices, which greet me every Thursday evening at the "Salle Brooklyn," you could hardly believe your eyes and ears. Hitherto it has been impossible to give them any special attention or care. They have come regularly to the Salle and have rendered great service by their singing, trained by the devoted and beloved Mme. Jenny; but no one could be

spared to organize them into any sort of a young people's society and instruct them. Now, however, so urgent has become their cry that the writer has consented and is to meet with them once a week for Bible study.

This is but one instance out of many of the demands for more workers. These groups are the nuclei of nascent churches, and offer, not only the best, but the only means of conserving the results of our work. Similar groups should be formed in several other halls, but the corps of helpers is already overworked.

Of Mr. Greig's work in organizing, instructing, and drilling the children too much cannot be said; it has been and is not only admirable, but he has been literally indefatigable and the results are already far reaching. If we could multiply by one hundred these groups of young Christians in Paris, it would seem as if the solution of the problem of the evangelization of Paris and of France would be assured; time would do the rest.

I meant to have spoken of the work in a third direction, that of reaching the giddy habitués of the Boulevard, or at Bonne Nouvelle, but my letter has already overrun the space and time you can spare it.

In closing I must ask what I trust it is needless to ask. Do not forget to pray for us. The Holy Spirit alone can direct and render efficient this work. *You can unreservedly commend it to your friends and all friends of Christian work in the world. It is a broader, deeper and more thorough work than any words can picture, and is worthy of and needs the aid and sympathy of all God's children.*

Very faithfully yours,

J. F. LOBA.

November 12, 1891.

SERIOUS CRISIS IN THE FINANCES OF THE MISSION.

SPECIAL APPEAL.

It is with extreme regret that we are compelled to announce a most serious deficiency in our receipts. During the last two years we have refused numberless calls to extend the work, we have incurred no extra expenses, we have studied the utmost economy. But, having commenced 1891 with a deficit, we find ourselves after nine months, not only with a heavy augmentation of that deficit, but with payments immediately due which we are quite unable to meet.

We do not trace this diminution to any failure of interest in our enterprise or of sympathy for France. It is accounted for by the rapid inroads of death on the ranks of our largest contributors, whose places have not been filled by new subscribers. Within a recent period a sum of from £1,400 to £1,600 has thus been deducted from our accustomed income. What can be done? Are we to resort to the sad alternative of closing important stations and dismissing valued workers? Must we extinguish the light which is beginning to shine in one and another dark place? Must we narrow and cut short our operations in this crisis when the "open door" in France so loudly proclaims that this is her day of grace?

In this extremity we address a most urgent appeal to all friends of French evangelization for immediate help. We require more than £2,000 (£3,000 if possible) to cancel past obligations and enable us to go forward on a firm basis. We ask the prayers of every devout reader of the RECORD that the Lord may dispose the hearts of His people to come to our help, and enable us to go on to spread the "glad tidings" for which many all over this country are waiting and longing.

For the Committee of Direction,

R. W. McALL.

A NEW DEPARTURE IN EVANGELIZATION.

[From an Address given by Pastor Theodore Monod in Exeter Hall, Sunday, at a meeting in behalf of the McAll Mission, we give the following extracts.—ED.]

When a man is called to the responsible task of speaking in such a meeting as this, the first question that occurs to him is, "What shall I say?" and when he has considered the subject a little while the second question comes, "What shall I leave unsaid?" Let me tell you of some things that are personally well known to me.

Well, let us suppose this is not 1891 but 1881—that will make us all feel ten years younger—and let us cross the channel (in nicer weather than I had to cross) and go to Paris. Going down one of the main streets, in the most beautiful part, we will pass through the Rue de Rivoli. The "Town House" was burned down before the glory of the Commune. There is also the Municipal Council there, and I am told they are getting a little more sensible than they were ten years ago. Passing still further along the street we see over one house the words, or letters rather, B-A-L—you spell it LL, but it is the same; it means that a public ball is going on there four times a week, and especially on Sundays, and on the other evenings that same hall is used for meetings. I went there two or three times and very strange meetings they were. One was a meeting of Anarchists—people who think that the best government is no government at all.

We just jump over these ten years and go to the meeting there now—the ball is gone and there are very few things to remind you of the old hall. It is much more comfortable, and quite a different class of meeting is going on—it is the McAll Mission. It is open every night. I was there on Friday night and I shall be there next Friday, I hope. Mr. Mettetal is there on Wednesdays and Mr. Réveillaud, a former editor of a newspaper, is also there. He is still an editor,

but it is of a religious paper and his conversion was a very marvelous one. On Friday nights I have for the last two years been reading the life of the Apostle Paul to them, and I read his letters right through, abridging as little as possible, and stopping here and there to give a word of explanation of what is coming next. I find they listen very well indeed. Now, these men are not of the flock of nominal Protestants, but are all sorts. They come from the neighborhood and are mostly working men, clerks, and some of the very poor besides. Now what a transformation Mr. McAll's Mission has wrought by the grace of God! There are two of us pastors at this Mission. I will tell you an extraordinary thing. We used to have a meeting on Wednesday night with ten or fifteen people present and when we had twenty there we thought it was very wonderful. We gave up that Wednesday meeting in the church, but the people came to a mission meeting and we find that though the people won't go into a church they will come into a hall. That is a fact and we must deal with it as such, and if we can't get the people in one place we can in another and accordingly go there. The fact is, the McAll Mission is not only a mission, but it is a new departure in the work of evangelizing. This is proved by a little book I read; it is written by a pastor living in Minneapolis, and is entitled "The Working Church." In this book I remember it said, "We ought to have McAll meetings." I hear that in Germany they are saying the same thing.

Going a little further in our walk we pass the Bastile. A friend asked me the other day if we had any prisoners there; but of course that is all gone and done away with. Turning to the right of this we come to another building where the McAll Mission is conducted. Here special meetings for young men and women are held, amongst other gospel meetings, and are conducted by an Englishman, or a very good kind of Britisher

—a Scotchman. He does his noble work with a firm hand, a strong faith and a warm heart. In another part of Paris Mr. Hunter is engaged in McAll Mission work and his meetings are well attended and very encouraging, having come under my personal observation.

We not only work on land but also on water. We had last year Mr. Cook's boat. Mr. Cook has sent a telegram, saying he is willing to again lend his boat, God willing, for the McAll Mission next year. I happen to know Mr. Cook now very well and love him. He is a humble and active man of God, there is no doubt about that. Mr. Cook was of the greatest use to the McAll Mission last year in Paris, having loaned us his boat for seven weeks' service there.

People often ask if there are conversions in the McAll Mission. Last year there were 120 conversions; but I confess that these figures don't say very much to me, as I have no doubt that there are a great many more than this number which the recording angel kept account of. Then again it has been asked whether the teaching in these missions is evangelical. You might as well ask whether they speak in Chinese or French. Why of course it is, and Mr. McAll's work is a protest against such remarks.

* * * * * * *

I am told you and the Americans are going to divide this £3,000 that we require between you. Well, here is a little sum, now how can it be done? If twenty persons give £50 it will make £1,000; if fifty people give £20, another £1,000 will be got; and if 100 people give £10 there will be the last £1,000. Now it is not so amazing when looked at like that and just see in which category you will place yourself. It is a serious thing just now to cross the channel, but I shall gladden the founder's heart and be well repaid if I know this money can be obtained.

MOTHERS' MEETING IN SALLE RIVOLI—NEW YORK

[From a letter to the New York Auxiliary we select the following extracts, relative to a work which appears to be among the most hopeful of any of the departments of our mission work. When we consider what is the influence of mothers upon the fortunes of a nation, we agree with Mrs. LeGay, that "were this the only field of our labors for the Lord, we should still find sheaves enough, that none need appear before Him at the Last Day with empty arms."—EDITOR.]

We have noted down in the year, from September, 1890, to September, 1891, these facts:

Five mothers received into the churches on confession of faith, fourteen children baptized in the Protestant church, and one marriage, the first step toward reformation.

Two hundred and twenty-five names are inscribed on the roll of the Mothers' Meeting. The attendance was never less than 125, and often over 220. The average was about 160.

It seems only fair, after stating what has been done, to tell you of the great opportunities that lie waiting at the door to be seized. An industrial school would undoubtedly meet with great success, and act as a stimulus to the Sunday and Thursday schools. It is also a favorable moment to introduce the Order of The King's Daughters; but the lack of workers renders it impossible for the moment. But if these things are borne upon our minds and hearts, and remembered in our prayers, the right person may be found who will give himself to the work.

I wish you could see, and feel as I do, the hundred instances where the gratitude of the women is expressed. They love the meeting as *we* love our homes, and it is only necessary to state that an American lady will be with us at a certain date, to bring a smile of satisfaction upon every face.

And now, while we are deeply thankful for the good wrought in His name, let us not forget the still greater amount which remains to be done, that our prayers may be for renewed consecration to effort, and more laborers sent into the field.

CORDELIA E. LEGAY.

GOOD NEWS FROM SAINTES.

BY C. BISSON.

There are times when one cannot help rejoicing, in humble gratitude for what the Lord has done. I have had this summer more children in my children's meetings than in former years. They have been more punctual, have recited and studied their lessons better. A goodly number left us in July to go to their apprenticeship. We pray that God may bless to their souls what they have been taught of His Holy Word.

Of late we are getting more strangers in our adult meetings, especially at Saintes. We have at Saintes a Bible and prayer meeting every Sunday afternoon, and I believe that God is blessing this little meeting for much good. About eighteen or twenty attend it, all seem to enjoy it much. Our young men—I believe eleven of them—have lately formed a Young Men's Christian Association. I am thankful to be able to say that the start was from our Salle, where they meet until they have found a proper room for their meetings. The church seems to be willing to help and encourage them, and they are full of hope. Dr. Benham made us a visit last week, and I believe that he was quite satisfied with what he saw of our work—indeed I do not know that I had seen better meetings at Saintes or Cognac than those in which Dr. Benham took part. No other notice was given but that at the Salle at the previous meeting, but it was fine weather, and all the habitués came, and seemed to express in a very grateful manner their gratitude for the visit. The pastors of Saintes and Cognac take part in our meetings, especially Pastor Garnier, from Cognac, who takes great interest in both the spiritual and temporal prosperity of those who attend both the Salle there and also his church. We pray that God may send more of the outside people to join this little flock.

HARVEST TIME DRAWS NEAR.

BY REV. S. R. BROWN.

Probably there never was a time when we had such quiet, large gatherings as now. Everywhere, meetings are good, and the attendance above the average. On Friday night, November 20th, M. Monod was impressed with the attendance at Salle Rivoli (New York) and had sixty persons at an after meeting. On Tuesday, at Bonne Nouvelle, late comers could not find seats, and nearly 150 persons remained to a Bible reading, on John xvii, while on Sunday afternoon the Rue Royale room was too small to hold the people. The children's meetings are so large that schools have had to be divided, and on Sunday we turned back more than fifty boys for want of room. But in future the school is to be in the large room, to let in new comers. This rush of children does not betoken a thirst for knowledge, but a hungering for the fruits of the Christmas tree. However, we let them come.

But the best sign is the number of persons who tarry behind after the meetings; seeking sinners or anxious saints who, instead of rushing out at the word "Amen," linger to ask counsel. But who can describe the tearful eye, the subdued tone of voice, the pressure of the hand, of seeking souls?

Among many most interesting cases I select one which in many respects, is unique. I was preaching at Rue Royale on Sunday afternoon, holding a French service after the English service. The subject was "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners," and the sinner's portrait was drawn from Romans v. At the close the *concierge* said: "A lady wants to see you." It was certainly a lady, timid, scarce daring to speak, who told me that she had a son in Algiers whom she wanted to bring up a Protestant. I inquired about herself: "Are you saved? If so, you can teach your son." "Oh, no," she answered, "and what must I do?"

Thursday following I was there again, and so was the lady. She bowed to me as I went to the platform, and sat silent and sad. The subject was, "Saul's conversion."

After service the lady again tarried to speak to me. She had come from Algiers, she said, to learn the way of life: she must set out on her return the following night; and again she expressed her mother-anxiety for her son. I talked to her a while, gave her a New Testament and the address of a pastor in Algeria, and we said adieu.

Next day, as it happened, I went to a small meeting held in the afternoon. I had forgotten madame for the moment, but the Lord remembered her. The text was: "He forgiveth *all* iniquities." After service I shook hands with her, when she began to weep. Leading her to a quiet corner, she gave me to understand that she had been very wicked; she was determined to lead a new life, but how could she "hold fast?" As the ladies had arrived for a prayer meeting, I handed her over to a spiritually-taught woman, who brought me the news that she was converted and wanted prayer that she might be kept. She was going to Algiers that night. We commended her to God, who is able to keep her from falling.

Here my story must have ended had I not received a letter this morning. It is a kind of confession with thanksgiving and request for prayer. It begins:

"Sir and reverend pastor," and says, "I am just converted; it is through your kindly words that I have begun to leave the sinful state in which I have lived for twenty years, having forgotten the good counsels of my youth. I was married at nineteen years of age to a godless man; I had all that I could wish. The more I shone in society, the higher I rose, the more vile and contemptible I became. My husband's splendid talents secured us a large fortune and a brilliant position, but oh! must I say it?—wealth, position, only made us monsters in iniquity and blasphemy.

“ Thus we lived sixteen years, when my husband’s brain gave way. After wrecking our splendid fortune, he died mad. Then I knew the extent of our disaster: houses, carriages, homes all sank in the wreck, and I was left poor, sick, and wretched. Yet in my grief the thought of God never entered my mind.

“ Two years ago I began business, resolved to work hard. Surely God had cast an eye of pity upon me. But illness and new misfortune crushed me, and at last I made the resolution to come to Paris to seek God, not knowing how to do it. The priests of my religion could not win my confidence, for in my youth I had been deceived. I went into churches to pray, but could get no relief. Then I thought of what I had heard as a child in Batignolles Protestant temple, and I set out to seek for the Rue Royale meeting. I came and resolved to seek God. I began to pray. How ashamed I am! how I suffer! my son is ignorant; he knows nothing. Oh, do join your prayers to mine for my son, that he may become a loyal, courageous man, respecting and loving God, as I want to serve and love Him all my life.

“ I start to-night for Algiers, to join my son—another person—quite another, than I left him. I am helped; I do believe; Jesus is near me. Pray for me that Jesus will never leave me. And accept, dear Monsieur le Pasteur, the humble thanks of a great sinner.

E. R.”

This is the first time I have heard of a person coming to Paris expressly to seek God. The memories of youth and the good hand of our God led her to Rue Royale meeting, where the seeking sinner met a seeking Saviour.

There are other signs of better days dawning. Sunshine has entered our hearts; the time is drawing near when many who have sowed in patience will know the joy of reaping.

THE YOUNG GIRLS' CLASS IN SALLE RIVOLI.

BY ANNIE CAREY JOHNSON.

This class was formed three or four years ago by Mlle Barbieux, now a missionary in Algiers, and has been in the hands of two or three persons since. The present teacher is Miss Flora Brown, but as she is absent now, for a stay of six months, I am replacing her. We have a pleasant room in the second story for our use whenever we wish it, and I greatly enjoy meeting there on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings, these fresh, bright young girls. They nearly all work at some trade or other which keeps them occupied till 9 o'clock, so that our evening meeting is a small one.

During the first hour of our Thursday evening meetings, the girls do pretty much as they like; work and talk, and I give them a little English lesson, but at 9 o'clock we read a chapter in the Bible, which I explain to them, sing a hymn or two and then close with prayer. Last Thursday evening we had just finished the meeting when a little lame girl, who constantly brings her blind friend, Pauline, to the meeting, said that Pauline wanted to speak to me. I went to her, and in much agitation she told me how she was suffering because she was unsaved. She had suddenly realized it a month before, and she had been unhappy ever since. She had prayed much for pardon, but she lacked the assurance of forgiveness. She thought, perhaps she was so bad that God could not save her.

Of course I did all in my power to help her and make the way plain to her; it was so touching to hear her pray for assurance. I think she went away with a little more light, and the next night, when I saw her, she told me she felt happy in the confidence that God had saved her. She is still tempted by doubts, but I have none about her being truly converted. The intelligent way in which this blind girl applied the texts of Scripture and the hymns which she had learned from hearing them in the Salle, to her own case, was most striking.

There are about eighteen members of this class, although some of them come but seldom. Miss Brown is greatly interested in them and does a great deal to attract them. After the Sunday School lesson we always have tea and *croissants* (little crescent-shaped rolls), which I am sure is very acceptable, to the poorer ones especially ; and in every way we try to make them feel that we are interested in and care for them.

THE WORK AT CHERBOURG.

The kind friends at Easthampton ask for some details of the work at Cherbourg. Strange to say, the good friend who has been carrying on the work there is now in America, Rev. J. Wood, delegate to the great Wesleyan Methodist Conference, lately held in this country.

Mr. Wood has been over three years in Cherbourg. The work has been very cheering. He has had good numbers attending his meetings, and feels much encouraged by the good result the gospel has reached among that large population. He much regrets that he has to leave, but the usual rule of his church is a change every three years, and besides he was needed in Paris, where he is much liked. His successor is a very earnest man, who has been a successful worker in Nimes.

Mr. Wood had the visit of Pastor Theodore Monod last spring, who spoke in the meetings, and also of *Prince Oscar*, of *Sweden*, a most godly man, who spoke two or three times in the gospel meetings, giving testimony to the power of the gospel, and the preciousness of Christ as a Saviour and a Friend. The good Prince did much by his influence and push to help on the work, and strengthen the hands of our friends.

In fact, the work has taken good hold in Cherbourg. We believe that good times are in store for that vast city of working men of all kinds, including both sailors and soldiers.

THE LEAVEN WORKING.

BY HENRY JAMES BENHAM, M.D.

The Lord has been blessing us in Paris and in many other places; we have had unusually large audiences during the summer, and what is still more important, there has been, in many halls, more earnest attention and an evident desire to learn. It is indeed cheering when we see our hearers, bending eagerly forward, as if drinking in the words of life, and then warmly thanking us, at the close of the meeting.

Several have professed to have found peace in believing, and we quite hope that many others have received the good seed in their hearts, although they have not made an open profession of faith. That there are many such, I have no doubt. For instance, a few months ago I met an old woman who used, last year, to attend very regularly at the hall in the Avenue Bosquet (now Salle Worcester in the Avenue Rapp). I had not seen her for some time. She told me that her poor health had prevented her from coming out at night. I said that I would call and see her. "Ah!" said she, "do you not know that I have *a meeting every day in my room*. When I read my Bible, my Saviour meets with me."

This was said so simply and naturally, that I felt it was her real experience, yet she had never before professed to have given herself to the Lord. The last day will reveal how many have thus become secret disciples. Had we more time for visiting probably we should discover many such. But the laborers are so few and the work so great.

But at Grenelle, Gare d'Ivry, Menilmontant and La Villette (and probably elsewhere), there are many who follow Christ openly, and are actively engaged in work for Him.

At our weekly prayer meeting yesterday, we had a striking illustration of the good that may result from one single hall. In the early days of the Mission, seventeen years ago, a young

seminarist, M. Bureau, who in studying for the Romish priesthood, had lost the little faith he once possessed, was persuaded to enter the small hall at Belleville. There the Spirit of God met him, he was convinced of sin and found the Saviour. He left the Romish Church, and after studying in England, under Rev. Grattan Guinness, came back to France, and became one of the chaplains to the French forces in Tunis. He has worked there ever since, both among the French and among the Arabs. He has had the joy of baptizing converts from among the fanatical followers of the false prophet, and is leading a noble missionary life, working in a district as large as Switzerland, ministering to the wants of the scattered Protestants and also among the Arabs.

Our devoted friends, M. and Mme Mabboux, who formerly labored so earnestly in Corsica and then at Menton, are also among the fruits of the Mission in Paris; as are many of the Sunday School teachers, that Mr. Greig has gathered around him. M. and Mme Mabboux have been in Paris this summer, taking the place of some of the workers who were away for their holidays. They have now gone to Boulogne Sur Mer to replace M. and Mme Killot, who will shortly take charge of the work at Nantes and St. Nazaire.

In one of the poorest districts in the southeast of Paris, Gare d'Ivry, near our Salle Yulee-Florida (Rue Nationale) our earnest worker, M. Sagnol, aided by other friends, and by M. Luvens with his violin, have again been holding meetings in the neighboring courts (since open-air meetings in the streets are not allowed in Paris). The people generally listen well, and are delighted to receive the tracts and gospels we distribute after each short service. Many of them are finding their way to our halls, and thus fresh people are being reached. The Lord is opening many doors; would that we could enter in.

At Poitiers and Châtellerault we have abundant cause for rejoicing. When our friend, M. Migault, began the work at Châtellerault two or three years ago, it was discouraging in the extreme. It was a dark and benighted country, and great was the opposition to the entrance of the light. During the first year it seemed almost hopeless. There were very, very few hearers, and almost constant disturbance; but the Lord gave him courage and perseverance, and by His mighty power an earnest band of converts has been gathered together. During a recent long illness, our brother reports that they were able to carry on the meetings among themselves. The disturbances have ceased, and the people receive the word gladly.

At Poitiers, a most dark and priest-ridden town, where there was formerly but *one* Protestant family, there is a band of converts, who show their faith by their works, and raise the money required for the rent of one of their two halls. Recently Mme Migault gave a little fête to the women attending her Mothers' Meeting, some of whom wept for joy and gratitude.

The influence M. Migault has gained even over his unbelieving fellow townsmen, is shown by the fact that the other day he was asked to speak at a funeral. The friends said to him: "You can say whatever you like; come without hesitation. Although we are free-thinkers, we shall all be there to listen respectfully, and when you have finished we will retire quietly and in an orderly manner." "I agreed," said he, "upon condition that I should only speak about the gospel and the Cross of Christ." They replied, "We do not wish to hear about anything else." May we not hope that by this means many may be led to the Saviour, whom they ignorantly reject.

In one of the villages near, several friends have offered the use of their houses for cottage meetings. Recently we had the pleasure of receiving visits from several American friends

passing through Paris, among them Dr. and Mrs. Parkhurst, your new president, and Dr. and Mrs. Chamberlain. The latter finished their European tour by spending two or three weeks in Paris, during which Dr. Chamberlain visited and spoke in fourteen of our stations, besides one of the dispensaries and one of the mission schools. He also took part in our weekly Friday prayer meeting.

On next Saturday, September 7th, a large gathering of the friends of the Mission, French, English, Scotch and American, was held in my garden to give Dr. and Mrs. Loba our cordial greetings, in the first week of their Paris life.

On Sunday the large church of the Oratoire was filled with some of the habitués of our various halls, to listen to several well-known speakers, notwithstanding which, almost all the usual meetings were well attended.

Thus, the work is progressing. The leaven is slowly permeating the mass of the people. But much, very much, has yet to be done. May we ask your earnest and continued prayers, that we who speak may be more and more filled with the Holy Spirit, and that His mighty power may lead multitudes of hearers into the way of life eternal, through faith in Christ Jesus.

Dr. A. T. Pierson has said of the McAll Mission: "It is the most economical mission of which I know on the face of the earth." Mr. Moody calls it "The best run mission in the world." Prof. Yeatman of the Paris Galignani wrote: "The activity and progress of that mission are simply marvelous," and Mr. Saillens, until recently one of the directors of the Mission, wrote: "The time will come when the converts of the McAll Mission will be numerous enough to make a real impression, not merely in the Christian churches of France but on the general public, yea, even on the world itself."

A SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION.

How you would have enjoyed being with us at the Salle Rivoli on Friday last!

When I and my small contingent from the Ternes (Salle Beach) got there at 2.30 we found "Grenelle" (mustered some thirty strong), quietly seated in the centre of the hall, with its faithful friend, Madame Pasteur, and several of her "mothers" beside her.

Our "chef," Mr. Greig, awaiting the arrival of his troops, received us, and my boys and girls took their places assigned to them. The pretty hall looks its best. The platform is adorned with evergreens and palm-branches, while the well known triple alliance of French, English and American banners hangs its folds gracefully around the reading-desk. The panneling of the little gallery is brightened by a selection of the colored Scripture pictures, so generously provided for all our schools by the American Sunday School Union, alternating with suitable texts.

But the continued arrival of happy children calls for our undivided attention, for the once quiet hall is fast filling with young life, and a subdued buzz of conversation prevails.

St. Antoine, Bercy, Ledru-Rollin, La Villette (with its little banner of blue and white), Montreuil, Pantin, Tocqueville, Gare d'Ivry, etc., send in their representatives of children, all swiftly passing into their places, and soon Salle Rivoli (New York) is "au complet." In the gallery are rows of parents anxious as to the good conduct of their little ones below, and many interested visitors of various nationalities.

On the platform, Dr. McAll—first arrived of the speakers—looks round with joyful satisfaction on the scene. Dr. Thurber, our American pastor, Dr. Loba and Dr. and Mrs. Parkhurst, of New York, represent our cousins across the ocean, whilst Pastors Sautter and Kech are the representatives of our children's "patrie."

Dr. McAll opens the meeting with prayer and reading a portion from the gospel, and the children raise their voices in one of the glad new hymns prepared for this fête.

Mons. Kech, for some years a missionary in the south of Africa, tells the children of his mission life, asking them to think of and pray for the missionaries, and recounts the history of his faithful dog Médor, who came to an untimely end, devoured by an alligator on the banks of the Zambesi.

Dr. McAll then presents to the audience our new helper and director, Dr. Loba, who, with his wife and four little daughters, has crossed the ocean to tell the story of Jesus' love in France. Dr. Thurber, in a few glowing, loving words, translated by Mr. Brown, bids Dr. Loba welcome to Paris and to the McAll Mission, and Dr. Loba replies, deeply touched with the warmth of the greeting accorded to him by old and young. He then turns to the children, and with his hand on the American flag, he reminds them that what brings us together to-day is the cross of Christ, far dearer to him than even the star-spangled banner, under which he had sought to serve faithfully his country, and he tells, with touching power, the story of the little negro boy who was faithful unto death in guarding his master's boots.

After another hymn sung heartily by the little ones, Mons. le Pasteur Sautter starts to the front, and sends a thrill of merriment through the hall, as he represents in action as well as word, an anxious mother examining her child's last winter's dress, with an eye to future use! "What *can* be done with this dress, so worn, *so* bad?" The question elicits the answer, "turn it," and a peal of laughter rings through the hall. He also brings forward, in imagination, the little boy who tried to eat the asparagus at the bad end. "What had *he* to do?" "Turn it," was again the answer. Then, in a short, loving appeal, the old lesson was drawn from the fresh illustrations, the one thing needful, the heart turned from

evil to God—renewed by God alone, and used in His service.

The closing prayer is offered, and platform friends begin to disperse. The children's friend and leader, however, Mr. Greig, is still at his post, with sign and word, guiding the closing scene. Whilst the singing is continued, each school is requested to pass up and along the gallery, where each child receives the material token of the love that has prompted this fete—a "*petit pain, une poire et un bâton de chocolat.*" In a continuous stream, and to the music of the hymns, our 527 little ones mount the stair at the platform, pass along the gallery, and down at the entrance stair, and so out into the busy rue St. Antoine, where careful teachers and monitors await them to accompany them home. Prayer has been answered, lovely weather granted, and a safe convoy accorded to and fro through the thoroughfares of this great city.

Now, and many days hence, will that happy gathering bear fruits for eternity. Several present on Friday, as teachers or monitors, were children listening at a similar gathering ten years ago in our mission. May we not expect that many more, who listened on Friday to the messages addressed to them, shall arise, and with renewed hearts and lives consecrated to God, become witnesses for Christ in France and all the world over.

E. M. C.

Once, at the close of a discourse in Salle Rivoli a man said to me, "Sir, from that same platform on which you have just stood to preach the gospel of peace, I have heard Louise Michel denounce all authority both civil and religious, and declare that peace was impossible until every policeman in Paris had been killed and buried under the pavements of the streets!"

S. H. A.

THE GARDEN PARTY, AND OTHER MEETINGS.

BY REV. J. H. WILSON, D. D., EDINBURGH.

[*From the Paris Quarterly.*]

On Saturday, fifth September, we went by invitation of Dr. McAll to an annual garden party of the workers and friends of the Mission. The garden of Dr. Benham, 15 Rue Boileau, Auteuil, was given for the purpose. There was a large and representative gathering of mission workers, ministers of different churches, and American, English and Scotch friends. Dr. McAll presided, welcoming the guests, and expressing his thankfulness to God for His continued blessing on their work. Various friends spoke in French and English. The great event of the meeting was the introduction of the Rev. J. F. Loba, D.D., as colleague to Dr. McAll. Originally a Swiss, and speaking the French language, Dr. Loba had many years ago gone to the United States, and there ministered to a large and attached congregation. Speaking in reply to Dr. Thurber, Dr. Loba stated how little idea or wish he had to leave his happy American home and flock, and with his wife and four little children cross the ocean and enter on a work so entirely new to him. Nothing would have induced him but what he believed to be the authoritative call of his Divine Master, to aid, as he could, in the evangelization of Paris and of France. He regarded *that* as worthy of the utmost effort and the greatest sacrifice which any of them could make. He cast himself believingly and fearlessly upon God, and with His help he felt there was nothing too great to ask or to expect. He had unlimited faith in the power of the simple Gospel in the hands of the Holy Spirit to change the hearts and the lives of men. I have seldom listened to a more powerful and touching appeal—so believing, and fervent, and manly in its tone. The whole assemblage seemed deeply impressed. Now that Dr. McAll is advancing in years, and feels less equal to the strain of the work and the burden of responsi-

bility, it should reassure the friends and supporters of the Mission that such a colleague should have been sent to stand alongside of him.

Yesterday (Sabbath) at 4.30, I attended one of the McAll meetings, in the Rue Royale. There was a large gathering. The principal address was given by M. Réveillaud, whose conversion, some years ago, excited such interest throughout Christendom. I gave a short address at the close, on "Looking unto Jesus," the Rev. Mr. Anderson interpreting sentence by sentence. Instead of being a drawback, this seemed to awaken the attention of the people, who listened as if they took in what he said.

M. Réveillaud afterwards joined us at dinner, and gave us some interesting information about his recent evangelistic work in France. He has found an open door everywhere. He has had personal interviews with quite a number of Romau Catholic priests (chiefly between the ages of twenty-six and thirty-five), who have come to him as inquirers, like Nicodemus, about many of whom he is hopeful. This seems the day of special opportunity for France, and it will be a woeful mistake, on the part of the Christian church, which should know no nationality, no mere geographical divisions, if it is lost.

In the evening there was a large gathering in the great Protestant church of the Oratoire, which had been lent for the occasion, and which was crowded in every part. It was made up of the attendants of several of the McAll Mission stations, and was a demonstration beginning the work of the winter. The singing—which was beautiful—was conducted by a large choir of the young people of the Mission, led by a lady. The chair was occupied by Dr. McAll, and addresses were given by several leading French pastors and others, who evidently had the ear of the great assemblage. It was a wonderful sight to witness *in Paris!* The attention of the audience was sustained from eight till past ten o'clock, and scarcely any, old or young, left before the close.

IN THE INTERIOR.

BY H. MIGAULT.

[*From the Paris Quarterly.*]

Châtelleraut (Castrum Heraldii) is twenty miles north of Poitiers, on the line between Paris and Bordeaux; there are 26,000 inhabitants. This town owes its name to a baron named Herault, who built a castle, its first name being originally Châtel-Herault. It was given as a reward for diplomatic services to a Scotch nobleman, the Duke of Hamilton, tutor of young Mary, Queen of Scots; in 1589 it reverted to the possession of the Bourbons. Nevertheless the Hamiltons and Douglasses still added to their titles that of the Dukes of Châtelleraut. Châtelleraut is a commercial town, possessing several famous cutleries and a manufactory of arms, which employs several thousands of workmen. The river Vienne flows through the town, and is navigable from that point. We hope that the missionary boat may visit its waters one day. The scenery is beautiful. The reformed religion reached Châtelleraut through the Duke of Hamilton, who brought an evangelist from Poitiers to preach in his house at La Berlandière, not far from the town. A church was built, and in spite of persecution it became flourishing. There, in 1541, was celebrated the marriage of William of Clèves with Jeanne d'Albert. The revocation of the Edict of Nantes destroying everything, those who wished to keep their faith took refuge in England, in South Carolina and other colonies. Rome possessed herself of what remained of that beautiful church to lead it in the way of falsehood and error. Châtelleraut has seen no Protestants since then, except a few deprived of pastor and ordinances, isolated and indifferent. The town had been carefully fortified; the thick walls, ruined by the religious wars, have been changed into fine houses and agreeable *boulevards*. One street still bears the name "La Rue du Prêche" (Preaching Street). Such is the place where we went

to plant the Gospel banner in 1888. For more than a year we had nothing but a hostile and mocking public, and all the encouragement we got was blows and stones, and broken windows, etc. "We have as many churches as we need," they shouted; "we do not need this one!" When I tried to speak in the hall I was insulted. If I gave out a hymn, there was nothing but a horrible din. After this there came a time of calm, more discouraging than the time of trouble. No one said a favorable word; every one was unsympathetic. At the end of nine months we had had in all forty-seven hearers, which gave an average of rather more than one person per meeting! How many times have I gone back to my house with my heart breaking! but I heard a still small voice in me, which said, "Take courage, fear nothing; the Lord is with thee; He shall give thee the victory." So I went on working; people came little by little; the wife of the landlord attended the meetings regularly, and a few months afterwards she was on her death-bed, singing the hymn, "Il est un Roc Séculaire." I heard afterwards that she was of Protestant origin, but had become a Catholic at her marriage. Since then her husband also gave himself to the Lord. He is a man who walks with God, and who has become a real missionary. How often have I seen him crying with joy at the thought that Jesus had revealed himself to him. "I know the truth," said he, "Jesus has placed my feet upon a rock, and my desire is to do all that I am able for Him." The children are very fond of him, and a real work is going on among them. Our hall being thus filled little by little, we did not know where to seat the people; the chairs being all in use, our dear brother, the landlord, went and got all the chairs that were in his house, and said, as he gave them, "The Lord has enlightened me, He can enlighten them too." Several other persons have found the Lord. We believe that this once refractory town will become the centre of a most important work.

FIFINE. THE CRUISE OF THE MYSTERY.

Members of auxiliaries and friends of the Mission will be glad to make themselves and their friends more perfectly acquainted with certain phases of the work in France, through the reading and circulation of the new book which Mrs. Louise Seymour Houghton has lately written, "The Cruise of the Mystery in McAll Mission Work."

"The Cruise of the Mystery" is not like "Fifine," written for children, but for those who are able, intelligently, to apprehend the immense value of the McAll Mission, and to be moved by a record of its methods and its achievements. Though in the form of fiction, the characters are all studied from life, and the details of the religious experience of each one are true, even, in most cases, to the very words in which they are expressed. The scene is not laid in Paris, though the final chapters carry us there. The story is of the work which for several years past has been carried on by a mission-boat on the coasts of Brittany and Normandy, and the descriptions of scenery and local customs give a delightfully picturesque character to the story. It is earnestly desired that each auxiliary, and each friend of the Mission, should do all possible to give "The Cruise of the Mystery" the largest sale possible. The book is a handsome volume of 402 pages, admirably illustrated, and yet we are able to offer it to all members of auxiliaries, postage prepaid, for the very low price of \$1.00. Of course, it is desirable that as many copies as practicable should be ordered to one address.

"Fifine," by Mrs. Houghton, is still very much in demand. This interesting story deals with phases of the mission work untouched by "The Cruise of the Mystery." So varied, so wide-spread, are the agencies employed and the people reached by this mission, that it is impossible to treat of them all in one story, or in two.

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Westbrook—S. Robitschek . . .	\$6.00	Belvidere Auxiliary	\$214 00
VERMONT, \$10.00.		Bloomfield—First Presb. Church	67 98
St. Johnsbury—Rev. H. Fairbanks	\$10.00	Madison Presb. Church	10 75
MASSACHUSETTS, \$479.50.		“ “ S. S. Miss. Soci'y	50 00
Amherst Auxiliary—Mrs. W. F. Stearn's School for Young Ladies	\$50 00	Morristown Auxiliary	175 00
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CONNECTICUT, \$222.71.		Philadelphia Auxiliary	711 50
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Norfolk—Cong. Ch. and Society	71 40	Cleveland Auxiliary	\$425 00
Norwich—Broadway Cong. Ch.	121 31	Dayton “	50 00
“ “ “ S. S.	10 00	Springfield “	49 07
“ Rev. & Mrs. N. Beach	5 00	ILLINOIS, \$1.00.	
Wethersfield—Cong. S. S. Class	5 00	Champaign—Mrs. A. O. Howell	
RHODE ISLAND, \$128.84.		“ Miss C. B. Howell	\$1 00
Rhode Island Auxiliary	\$128.84	MISSOURI, \$32.25.	
NEW YORK, \$323.41.		Springfield—Woman's Missionary Union	\$32 25
Ithaca—First Presb. Church . . .	\$53 16	KANSAS, \$60.66.	
New York City Auxiliary	235 00	Wichita Auxiliary	\$60 66
“ “ Mr. & Mrs. James Moscs	5 00		
Syracuse Auxiliary	25 25		

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I do give, devise and bequeath to the American McAll Association the sum of _____ dollars.

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I do give and devise to the American McAll Association the following described property.

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